

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A seal structure in an engine body, comprising:

a crankcase which has a crank chamber and which is coupled to a flat lower end face of a cylinder block having a cylinder bore, the crankcase being comprised of first and second case halves having oppositely facing joint surfaces coupled to each other in a plane extending perpendicular to the lower end face of said cylinder block, wherein only one of the joint surfaces of said first and second case halves includes a U-shaped seal groove extending along a peripheral edge of said crank chamber, and wherein enlarged recesses are provided only in said one of the joint surfaces of the first and second case halves and extend laterally from opposite ends of said seal groove to be surrounded by the cylinder block and the first and second case halves;

a bar-shaped seal member mounted in said seal groove to come into close contact with the other of said joint surfaces of the first and second case halves such that enlarged end portions integrally formed at opposite ends of said bar-shaped seal member are entirely filled in the enlarged recesses; and

a gasket of a sheet form interposed between the flat lower end face of said cylinder block and cooperating end surfaces on said first and second case halves to provide a seal between said lower end face and said cooperating end surface and to come into close contact with upper end faces of said enlarged end portions, whereby a T-shaped intersecting joint area among said cylinder block and said first and second case halves is sealed by said seal member and said gasket.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): A seal structure in an engine body according to claim 1, wherein said seal groove and each of said enlarged recesses have substantially the same depth.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A seal structure in an engine body according to claim 3, wherein said bar-shaped seal member comprises an intermediated bar-shaped portion having a circular cross section and said enlarged end portion have a square cross section.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A seal structure in an engine body, comprising:
a cylinder block having a flat lower end face; and
a crankcase having an upper end face coupled to the lower end face, the crankcase comprising:

a first case half having a first upper end face parallel to the lower end face and a first joint surface perpendicular to the lower end face; and

a second case half having a second upper end face parallel to the lower end face and a second joint surface perpendicular to the lower end face, the first joint surface being coupled to the second joint surface to form the crankcase having a crank chamber therein;

a U-shaped seal groove provided on the first joint surface entirely formed along a peripheral edge of the first joint surface, having a first enlarged recess and a second enlarged

recess corresponding to opposite ends of the U-shaped seal groove, each of the first and second enlarged recesses being formed at the first upper end face;

a bar-shaped seal member mounted in the U-shaped seal groove, the bar-shaped seal member having a first enlarged end portion and a second enlarged end portion engaged in the first and second enlarged recesses; and

a gasket of a sheet form interposed between the flat lower end face of the cylinder block and the upper end face of the crankcase to provide a seal between said lower end face and said upper end face;

wherein the U-shaped seal groove and the enlarged recesses are not formed on the second case half.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A seal structure in an engine body according to claim 5, wherein the U-shaped seal groove has a depth substantially same as that of the enlarged recesses.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A seal structure in an engine body according to claim 5, wherein the bar-shaped seal member comprises an intermediated bar-shaped portion having a circular cross section and each of the first and second enlarged end portions have a square cross section.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A seal structure in an engine body according to claim 5, wherein the U-shaped seal groove is formed ~~such that the portions near~~ to have straight portions connected to the first enlarged recess and the second enlarged recess ~~come close to each other~~ .

respectively, and a curved portion connected at opposite ends to said straight portions, respectively, said straight portions extending parallel to each other and said opposite ends of the curved portion coming close to each other and connected to the straight portions.

Claim 9 (new): A seal structure in an engine body according to claim 5, wherein the gasket of the sheet form has a lower surface, which comes into contact with the first enlarged end portion or the second enlarged end portion.

Claim 10 (new): A seal structure in an engine body according to claim 1, wherein the bar-shaped seal groove is formed to have straight portions connected to the enlarged recesses, respectively, and a curved portion connected at opposite ends to said straight portions, respectively, said straight portions extending parallel to each other and said opposite ends of the curved portion coming close to each other and connected to the straight portions.